GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1680
ANSWERED ON:25.11.2016
Pre-Primary Education to Children under ICDS Scheme
Lekhi Smt. Meenakashi

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provides pre-primary education to children under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme;
(b) if so, the details thereof; and
(c) the funds allocated/released and utilised along with the number of beneficiaries thereunder during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD EVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ)

(a) & (b) Yes, Madam, Pre-primary Education/ Early Childhood Care & Education (ECCE) is one of the six free services provided through Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) located across the country under ICDS Scheme administered by the Ministry of Women & Child Development. The ECCE component seeks to lay the foundation for proper psychological, physical and social development of the child while preparing for proper formal education. The National Early Childhood Care & Education (ECCE) Policy as notified on 12th October, 2013, recognizes multiple models of ECCE services delivery through public, private, and non-governmental service providers including Anganwadi Centres (AWCs), pre-schools, etc. Public channel is the largest provider of ECCE services through ICDS Scheme implemented by States / UTs. Under ICDS Scheme, universal self-selecting services including early childhood care and education/ Pre-school Education (PSE) is provided through 13.49 Lakh operational Anganwadi Centres.

The policy also lays down basic quality standards relating, inter alia, to building and infrastructure, pupil-teacher interaction, learning experiences planned for children, health, nutrition, protection measures and trained staff. To standardize the quality of PSE/ECCE in the country, basic quality standards and specifications have been laid down in National ECCE Policy.

(c) State/UT-wise details of funds expended and number of beneficiaries benefitted under ICDS Scheme during last three years and funds released during current year is at ANNEX.
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